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## MEETING NOTES CENTRAL VALLEY SALINITY POLICY GROUP Executive Committee Meeting September 16, 2008

Attendees: See attached Sign-in Sheet

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Longley welcomed meeting participants. Participants introduced themselves.

### 2. **Status of Existing Studies and Efforts/Distribution of Documentary Video**

Dr. Longley reported that the video produced by the Water Education Foundation, "Salt of the Earth: Salinity in California's Central Valley", is now available. The video is available in one hour, 20 minute and 8 minute versions and is accompanied by a viewer's guide. There is a need to continue public outreach efforts using the video, which will require additional funding.

### 3. **Results of Public Education and Outreach Strategic Planning/Logo Review/Approval**

Gail Cismowski reported that the committee mapped out a plan for future efforts. The top priority is expanding participation to cover a broader range of interests, as the committee is weighted toward wastewater treatment interests. The committee identified short range and long range projects, including:

- Developing a list of things that people can do to reduce salts;
- Facilitating communication across the various CV Salts committees and assisting committees in disseminating their messages;
- Convening a Salinity Forum or Summit of key decision makers
- Identifying and engaging those stakeholders necessary for the success of the CV-SALTS effort

Daniel Cozad reported that the Committee had undertaken a strategic planning effort to identify principles and values related to the Committee's dual roles of public outreach and stakeholder outreach. The core values identified were integrity and fair and balanced collaboration. One longer term project that was identified was development of a web-based library of BMPs.

The Executive Committee reviewed the logo graphic and approved the logo for use, with future discussion needed about its utilization. Regional and State Board staff will be providing usage guidelines and finalizing contact information.

# DRAFT

## 4. **Salinity Policy Group Meeting Agenda, Participants, Presentations**

Dr. Longley reviewed the rough draft agenda for the Policy Group meeting on October 30, 2008, as summarized below:

- Showing of the 20 minute version of the video "Salt of the Earth"
- Committee Presentations
- Executive Committee Presentations on strategy and the CV Salinity Coalition
- Update on other efforts:
  - DWR (water plan)
  - Bureau of Reclamation (MAA)
  - State Water Board Recycled Water Policy
- Future directions—where CV Salts is headed
  - Studies and actions needed
  - Oversight and stakeholder involvement
- Group Feedback and Priorities

The Committee members shared their expectations for the meeting:

- Coalition building
- A "big picture" explanation of where we have been and where we are going
- Linkages with other efforts
- Provide context; highlight progress to date
- Identify roadblocks—how do we get the right people to the table?

## 5. **Strategic Planning for the Executive Committee**

The Committee engaged in a roundtable discussion of strategic planning ideas. These included:

- The need for a refined economic impact analysis
- Additional outreach
- Getting the right stakeholders to the table
- Clearly identified priorities and near term goals that stakeholders can buy into
- Identify why the CV Salts effort is important to each set of stakeholders
- Get some projects completed to show real progress
- Complete the salt source identification, which will drive participation
- Establish our own timeline for tasks.

Pamela Creedon joined the meeting, and there was additional discussions regarding the need to identify key policy issues, deadlines and funding goals, and lay out for the Policy Group how it all fits together. Based on this discussion, it

# DRAFT

was agreed that the Committee would hold a strategic planning session prior to October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. **Central Valley Salinity Coalition Update**

Bobbi Larson provided a brief update on the coalition, which has been incorporated at a 501(c)(6) and has the ability to enter into contracts and receive contributions. The Committee discussed the possibility of directing penalties from regional water board enforcement actions, particularly mandatory minimum penalties, to the coalition in the form of supplemental environmental projects (SEPs), and agreed that this should be pursued.

## 7. **Bureau of Reclamation MAA**

Rudy Schnagl reported that the MAA was approved by the Regional Water Board at its July 31, 2008 meeting. The Bureau has requested revisions, which are being reviewed by Regional Water Board staff.

## 8. **San Joaquin TMDL Update**

Mr. Schnagl reported that water quality objectives for salts upstream of Vernalis are being developed. The expectation is that some reaches will not be in attainment for those objectives and a TMDL will be required. Currently, the focus is on modeling and evaluating the salt sensitivity of various crops.

## 9. **Committee Reports**

### A. Economic and Social Impact Committee

On behalf of Chair Linda Dorn, Daniel Cozad reported that the U.C. Davis economic study is expected to be completed in approximately four weeks. The most controversial aspect of the study, the salt sources information, has been removed from the report and identified as an area for further research. The committee is considering undertaking some pilot level salt source identifications in each of the three basins.

### B. Technical Advisory Committee

Chair Dennis Westcott reported that the TAC is focusing on the basin planning process. The committee has identified a need to identify sources using standard, consistent approaches to avoid comparing “apples to oranges”, as well as to develop tools to assess the effectiveness of management strategies. The committee will review the data gap analysis and provide guidance on how new information will be developed.

# DRAFT

The committee discussed the need to be more than an advisory body and to serve as a catalyst for funding and completing needed studies that will be the basis of a Basin plan amendment.

## 10. **Future Meeting Schedule**

October 2, 2008, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.: Strategic Planning Session

October 22, 2008, 1:00 p.m.: Preparation for October 30 Policy Group Meeting

November 18, 2008, 1:00 p.m.